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Northern Region News



July 5, 1993

A Newsletter For Employees and Retirees

Issue 7

Old Appeal Process to be Abolished

There has been no lack of interest by the public or press in recent months in proposed changes to the appeals procedures. The purpose of the proposed new rules is to improve administrative efficiency, shorten the time it takes to reach an appeal decision and reduce the likelihood of appeals by working out problems in advance through increased public involvement.

Since 1907, the Forest Service has provided, on its own, an administrative appeal process by which permittees and the public could challenge Forest Service decisions and the decision-making process. In the 1960s and '70s, public involvement increased dramatically with the passage of such major environmental laws as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). However, despite the agency's effort to involve the public prior to the point at which decisions are made, the number of appeals have increased. In FY 92, Region 1 received 409 appeals, a record number.

The Forest Service appeal process is now mandated by law. The changes to the process are contained in the Senator Leahy Amendment, Section 322 of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for FY 93. The proposed rules to implement this law were published in the Federal Register April 14, 1993. The comment period on the proposed rules ended June 1 and elicited almost 9,000 responses.

Specifically the proposed regulation calls for the Secretary of Agriculture to

establish a notice and comment process for proposed Forest Service projects and activities and to modify the procedure for appeals of decisions implementing Forest Plans.

Despite the agency's effort to involve the public prior to the point decisions are made, the number of appeals have increased.

What is different about the new proposed rules? (1) a 30-day public review and comment period on environmental assessments (EA)/proposed FONSI's. Previously there was no comment period required; (2) one level of administrative review instead of two; (3) parties must provide comments or express interest DURING THE 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD to establish standing for appeal. Previously an appeal could be made after the close of the comment period without previously demonstrating interest; (4) the basic time period to review and rule on an appeal decision will be 30 days instead of 100 days; (5) an informal discussion is required within 15 days of the close of the appeal period. Previously holding the discussion was optional; (6) intervenor status may be requested up until 24 hours before the informal discussion meeting.

What did not change: (1) how we solicit public comment

by Betty Weisenburger, Timber Sale Specialist
Regional Office

for Draft Environmental Impact Statements, i.e., the way in which we advertise or publicize our solicitation for comment; (2) the appeal process of Regional Guides and Forest Plans (approval, revision and amendment); (3) the appeal process applicable to permits and licenses.

Two exemptions are provided in the regulations: No appeal period (1) if no comments are received during the 30-day public comment period for those decisions subject to appeal and (2) for emergency, rehabilitation, resource protection and recovery actions necessary because of natural phenomenon such fire, wind, etc.

Upon completion of the public comment review, the final rules and implementation date will be published in the Federal Register.

Wilderness Institute and National Wilderness Center to be Dedicated August 21

The dedication of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute and the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center will be held Saturday, August 21 at the Grand Menard Picnic Area, Ninemile Ranger Station, Lolo National Forest. The dedication presentation will be at 10:30 a.m.; tours and other festivities will run from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

For further information, call Liz Close, Wilderness, Recreation, & Heritage Programs, Regional Office (406) 329-3587.



Former Forest Service Employee Named UM Forestry Distinguished Alumnus

by Ray Karr and Robert Ethridge,
Alumni of the University of Montana School of Forestry

Lorin Hearst of Missoula is the 1993 Distinguished Alumnus for the University of Montana's forestry school. Hearst is a former Forest Service employee with 32 years with the agency before his retirement in 1982.

In recommending Hearst for the honor, the nominating committee stated that he became known throughout the forestry profession as the foremost expert in the Rocky Mountain West in the field of forest products utilization. The association cited his creativity and leadership in successfully promoting new logging and sawmill technology to make use of wood materials that had formerly been wasted.

Hearst began his Forest Service career as a seasonal employee after World War II. He served in four ranger districts and four national forests in management positions in Montana and Idaho over a ten-year period. He then worked three years as a professional forester for a lumber company in western Montana. He returned to the Forest Service, where he eventually became the head of the Division of State and Private Forestry's Forest Products Utilization Branch in Missoula.

A former fellow with the Society of American Foresters, Hearst is an active member of the Forestry Alumni Association and numerous professional societies and museums. He and his wife Ina have three grown children.

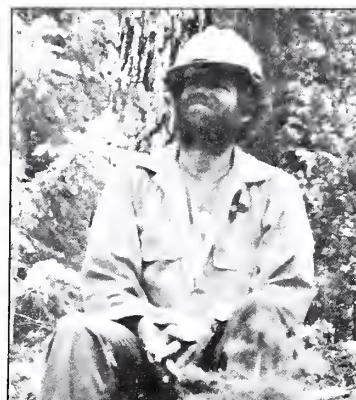
207 Fire Jumps - Without Injury

by Tim Eldridge,
Information Assistant
Aviation and Fire Management

Smokejumper squad leader Joe Chandler achieved a first during the 1992 fire season. Chandler has a total of 350 jumps to his credit over a span of 22 years. Of these jumps, 207 were made to fires. Joe has accomplished this feat without a single injury, something no other jumper has done in the Forest Service smokejumper program since its creation in 1940.

Joe started working for the Forest Service near Alberton, Montana, on Plateau Lookout in 1969. He also worked on the Lolo Hotshot crew in 1970 and started jumping in 1971.

Congratulations to Joe from all his friends in Aviation and Fire Management.



Joe Chandler

Kootenai's Ken Briggeman Gets Regional Forester's Award

by Dan Castillo, Sale Administration Specialist
Regional Office

Ken Briggeman received a Regional Forester's Award May 5 in recognition of his sustained superior performance as timber staff officer for the Kootenai National Forest.

During Ken's tenure, the Kootenai has continually met timber targets, while maintaining one of the lowest costs in the Region involved in the administration of the Forest's timber sale program. The cost is also lower than the national average.

Ken has been an active member of the Sale Administration Certification group which organizes formal trainings in the Region for certification of personnel as timber sale administrators. Ken has also established and promoted a very successful timber industry working group that meets on a regular basis to discuss and resolve problems.

In addition, Ken has provided leadership in maintaining over a 90 percent survival rate of trees planted as part of reforestation efforts of logged areas. The average survival rate is around 85 percent.



L to R - Ken Briggeman and Regional Forester Dave Jolly

Newsletter Guidelines

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. Following are guidelines for submitting stories:

- Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.
- Articles must be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.
- Photos should be black and white, glossy prints if possible.
- Send articles to G. Weisgerber: R01A (Data General) or Gloria Weisgerber, Northern Region Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807. The public affairs officer on your Forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

Blackerby Scholarship Awarded

by Barb Beck, District Ranger
Clearwater Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest

The Blackerby Memorial Scholarship, given annually to an outstanding Grangeville High School graduate, was established in memory of Alva W. Blackerby, supervisor of the Nez Perce National Forest at the time of his death 34 years ago. "Blackie," as best remembered by his many friends, died from injuries sustained in a plane crash at Moose Creek airstrip on August 4, 1959. The scholarship was initiated in 1968 by Mrs. Blackerby and her son Kirk.

This year's scholarship was awarded to Bradley Mechelke, son of Terry and Cheryle Miller of Grangeville, Idaho. Brad, age 18, will be attending the University of Idaho majoring in accounting.

Selection criteria for the scholarship includes character and personality, intelligence, leadership, vigor of the mind and physical energy, love of the outdoors, and community interest.

Getting a Pig's Eve View of I-15

by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Officer
Beaverhead National Forest

About 20 Beaverhead employees and family members came to the Barretts Rest Area south of Dillon the evening of May 19, to help clean up the Beaverhead National Forest Employees' section of Interstate 15. (Next time you pass between milepost 55 and milepost 53, notice how clean things look!)

In those two miles (covered slowly when you're bending down to pick stuff up), we found: three rattlesnakes (escorted to safer habitat by Butch Selway), several pairs of long johns, a Forest Service Missoula fire cache shovel box, pounds of aluminum cans, and pieces of tires, bottles, and even a used paper diaper.

We plan to do this again a couple of times a year. A barbecue will reward the workers next time. Stay tuned for the next chance to see a part of Montana you only thought you knew—up close AND personal!



Bradley Mechelke



a note from Dave

On May 24, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Jim Lyons met with regional foresters and station directors in Washington D.C. and made several points that would be of interest to you. I've taken the liberty to paraphrase and add some of my own thoughts to what Jim expressed. Being committed to these objectives is one way we can make a difference to see our agency better run, provide a good work environment, and make our work more fun.

First, all of us should feel free to give our best thinking in a free and open discussion of issues. It is basic to the operation of our organization. It was for our experience and ideas that we were hired and none of us should feel constrained in offering our professional opinion. Good management will want to solicit and consider the best information and thinking from employees when it may influence a decision to be made. It is important, though, once a decision has been made, that as professionals we need to end the debate, support the team and get on with the work.

Second, we should demonstrate professionalism in our working relationship with other agencies as well as each other. Professional disagreements are expected and there's every reason to voice divergent views to the appropriate staff of the agency involved as we move towards a decision. It is as important that we work out our disagreements with our counterparts in other agencies as it is among ourselves. The public deserves the best we can give them. We cannot give our best if we are constantly arguing with each other. This does not mean that we should not or cannot disagree about important issues. It does mean that we should keep our disagreements on a professional level.

We've had some excellent working relationships with other federal agencies on difficult issues. An example is the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, which includes representatives from the Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and several states. It is a good example of what can be accomplished on a very important and often times very controversial issue if our energy is spent working together.

The third point is that we show integration of ecosystem management (EM) in our planning. I'm especially proud that this is one of the points Jim chose to emphasize with the regional foresters. It's because of your efforts and dedication we have become the leaders in putting EM principles into practice. We in the Northern Region are leading the way in moving the concepts into reality. Ecosystem management has to be balanced with concern for the economy and with jobs. We can be confident that if we manage first to sustain ecosystems, we will be better able to provide the things people need.

Finally, if we incorporate these objectives in our daily work, we are bound to improve our credibility—with each other, people in other agencies, and the public. It begins with believing in what we do, working together as professionals toward a goal, and doing what we say we are going to do. It is being willing to listen to the views of others and allowing them to influence us. It is keeping an open dialogue with our public, which includes a multitude of individuals and groups. It means seeking out people who may have a different way of looking at things and involving them. It means saying the same things and giving the same information to all groups.

Improving the credibility of the Forest Service is of paramount importance to the Department and to my mind it comes with being open and up front with all groups, keeping doors open and making sure the public and our own people understand and accept the mission Congress gave us.


Dave Jolly
Regional Forester

How the Washington Office Views R-1 Ecosystem Management Efforts



An interdisciplinary team from the Washington Office (WO) of the Forest Service were in Region 1 May 10-13 to see how ecosystem management (EM) was being implemented in the field. Four sites were visited: Stevensville Southwest in the Bitterroot National Forest; Dromedary, in the Lolo National Forest; Elkhorns in the Helena National Forest; and North Flints, in the Deerlodge National Forest. The Forest Sciences Laboratory (FSL) in Missoula was also visited.

WO participants included Peg Boland, Land Management Planning; Jim Fenwood, Wildlife and Fisheries (WLF); Dick Smith, Forest Insect and Disease Research Staff; and Ron Lewis, Mike O'Connor and Rob Mrowka, Timber Management (TM). Also participating was John Humke of The Nature Conservancy. Primary Regional contacts were Bob Naumann and Barry Bollenbacher, Timber Management; Ron Haag, Range, Air Watershed, and Ecology; Doug Glevanik and Cynthia Manning, Planning; and Chuck Prausa, TM, Bitterroot National Forest.

The visit was a tremendous success and learning experience due in large part to the quality presentations by district, forest, Regional Office, and FSL personnel. Important findings of the trip centered on the Region's increased awareness and consideration of the larger scale in dealing with time and space. One such effort underway is the development of a method to tie Regional ecological analysis and assessment into the national ecological hierarchy. Another project is the mapping of the Region by ecological sections in partnership with other agencies. The product would provide a framework for addressing issues that cross large geographical scales that transgress forest boundaries.

It was evident to the team, as it is to the Region, that in attempting to do

landscape and larger scaled analyses, more and better tools are needed for the job. The type of model being developed by Jimmie Chew, FSL, demonstrates the kind of innovation that is right on target. The model has the capacity to project, forward and back, changes in landscape patterns and processes, while incorporating risk and probabilities.

In the minds of many people with whom the group talked, the current budget and target process get in the way of doing ecosystem management, particularly at scales above the project level. What emerged consistently over the week was the idea that the large scale analysis and assessments above the project level should be funded out of planning or non-functional moneys.

It is clearly a time of learning in finding ways to incorporate the concept of EM into the mainstream of forest planning and our decisionmaking processes. The Planning group in the Regional Office is working with the Helena National Forest to provide an example Forest Plan Amendment based on the Elkhorns Landscape Analysis.

The desire to use EM principles by all units visited was obvious to the group. There were differences in focus, reflecting both the varying demands of the public and the thinking of the forest staffs. Exciting new projects being pioneered in the field were noted by the visitors, especially in the area of public involvement or the "human dimension" as a component of EM.

The Region's activities concerning EM will continue to be monitored by the WO in that the Region is providing national leadership in taking the steps to make EM a reality. As stated in the WO team report of their four-day visit, "The dedication and enthusiasm of land managers at all levels of the organization was readily apparent. Ecosystem Management is being supported and embraced across disciplines. It is also apparent that we don't have all the pieces figured out, but are making progress in a 'learn as we go' mode."

by Doug Glevanik, EM Coordinator
and Barry Bollenbacher, Silviculturist
Regional Office



Dick Reichle, guide for Frontier Anglers, shared llama lore with the crowd at outfitters meeting

OUTFITTERS

The Old Stereotype Doesn't Fit Anymore

by Katie Bump, Range Conservationist
Dillon Ranger District
Beaverhead National Forest

Below the shimmering, snowy peaks of the Pioneer Mountains, a colorful crowd got acquainted with mules, llamas, backpacks, and the outfitters who use them. It was the Beaverhead National Forest's annual outfitter meeting, held May 15.

The meeting was worthwhile for many reasons, but primarily it offered the chance for the Beaverhead staff and outfitters to get together in a relaxed setting and talk informally, which they seldom have the opportunity to do. The program was organized by Dick Owenby, Forest recreation staff officer; Katie Bump of the Dillon Ranger District; and Bob McNeill of Diamond Hitch Outfitters.

There were "live" demonstrations of mule packing, llamas and llama equipment, backpacking and climbing gear. Leave No Trace philosophy and techniques were presented by Dillon District recreation forester Jim Schaeffer, stimulating some interesting ideas in open discussion.

The group explored ways national forests can accommodate the variety of recreation activities now available from outfitters—from traditional horse-and-mule hunting trips to non-traditional hiking/fishing trips with llamas, educational

programs involving backpacking and climbing, and guided 4x4 day trips. As Forest Supervisor Ron Prichard said, "The old stereotype of outfitters (on horseback, wearing a cowboy hat, guiding hunters) is being challenged and changed, and the Forest Service has a role in that." Ideas were discussed for developing better partnerships between outfitters and the Forest Service.

The Beaverhead has an Outfitter Task Force to review complaints or conflicts that develop among outfitters. According to Dick Owenby, that advisory group hasn't yet had to tackle any extraordinary problems. "However we don't want to wait until there's a problem or some kind of conflict," said Owenby, "and then try to get everyone together. As outfitting grows, we can help by pulling together some of the very different individuals, and help develop professionalism and pride in the industry."

The meeting was held at the recently completed Bender Center, a new conference facility at the Historic Birch Creek CCC Camp in the Dillon Ranger District. The Bender Center and CCC Camp are operated by Western Montana College as an Outdoor Education Center under a special use permit.

Gallatin Holds Wilderness Workshop

by Kimberly Schlenker,
Recreation Staff Assistant
Gallatin National Forest

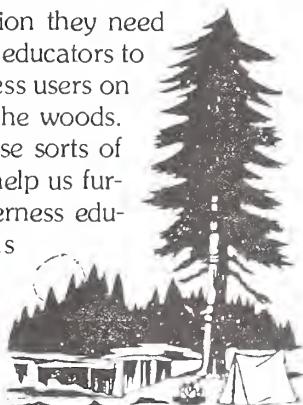
The Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Coordinating Committee hosted a one day Wilderness Awareness Workshop for frontliners working in the Northern Greater Yellowstone Area this June. A total of 25 frontliners from seven ranger districts and three forests attended this one day session which was held at the Big Creek Ranger Station, Livingston Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest.

Committee members Tom Alt, Beartooth Ranger District; Frank Cifala, Big Timber Ranger District; Barb Timms, Livingston Ranger District; and Kimberly Schlenker, Gallatin National Forest were the primary instructors for the session.

Topics presented to the group included wilderness awareness (philosophies, history, etc.), Leave No Trace camping techniques, bear awareness, the role of prescribed natural fire, information on: special orders, weed free feed requirements, pending Montana wilderness legislation, and finally a slide tour of the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses.

Attendees had the opportunity to have some "hands on" experience with Leave No Trace methods (campfire building, food storage, human waste, camp location, and stock containment) at several different stations set up at the site, though most of the experience gained was dodging thunderstorms which kept chasing us into the historic ranger station!

The primary goal of the session was to give frontliners all the necessary information they need to be the first educators to greet wilderness users on their way to the woods. Hopefully these sorts of sessions will help us further our wilderness education goals both internally and externally.



Making Ecology Meaningful to Young People

by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Officer
Beaverhead National Forest



The Northern Region had representatives at a unique gathering in Evergreen, Colorado, April 2-4. There, the Ecology in Education Workshop, sponsored by the Ecological Society of America with financial support from the National Science Foundation, brought together ecologists, school teachers, university educators, and resource agency educators. Each of the Rocky Mountain States sent a team. Sue Reel, from the Lolo National Forest, and Jack de Golia, from the Beaverhead, were on the Montana team.

Each State's team was charged with developing a State plan to encourage more teaching of ecology in the elementary and secondary grades. The Montana plan's "preamble" says, in part: "In today's complex world, learning and problem solving are increasingly fragmented. There is less interconnection between the parts. Learners often don't understand the larger whole of the systems we are part of. Relevancy and practical application are often overlooked in the learning process. Teachers and students may fail to grasp

the broad application of scientific and ecological inquiry to real problems."

To solve this problem, the Montana plan offers ideas for including students in "real-world" data collection, work that ecologists need done but don't have time or money to undertake. Montana's team members discussed a model program where students all along the Missouri River, from Helena to St. Louis, are now involved in a water-quality data collection effort, coordinated by Helena high school teacher Gil Alexander. This project will provide useful data for many state and Federal agencies.

The team also proposed setting up ecology "cooperatives," where teachers, ecologists, and community interests can meet during the school year to help the teachers teach ecology and discuss how to meet data collection needs the ecologists have. Jack de Golia hopes to set up a pilot "cooperative" in Dillon next fall.

Other steps in the Montana plan call for increased teaching of ecology during teacher training at the Montana university system campuses. Montana currently

has a five-year teacher training enhancement grant that fits nicely with this idea.

The Montana plan has gotten the endorsement of the Montana Science Teachers Association and the Montana Environmental Education Association. Team members hope to begin a number of tasks before meeting in February 1994 to review their progress and update the plan.

For the Forest Service, an emphasis on ecology education blends well with our new emphasis on ecosystem management (EM). EM can only benefit from a citizenry that understands ecology.

If you'd like a copy of the Montana Ecology Education Plan, contact Jack de Golia (J.DEGOLIA:ROIF02A) or Sue Reel (S.Reel:ROIF16A). You can also contact the Montana team leader, Dr. Elisabeth Charron, at Room 213, Reid Hall, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717, telephone (406) 994-5952.

The Idaho team leader is Dr. John Marshall, University of Idaho, FWR 217, Moscow, ID 83844, telephone (208) 885-6695.

How to Lure 7th Graders from Video Games-- and Learn about the Land

by Menn Pollworth,
Information Assistant
Nez Perce National Forest

Getting young people interested in what's happening on the land has been a tremendous challenge for professional educators and Forest Service personnel. "Even in rural Idaho," marveled Barb Beck, Clearwater District Ranger, "kids would many times rather stay inside and play video games than be out-of-doors."

In seeking to make a difference in the thinking of the younger generation, the Clearwater Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest sponsored two field days for the seventh grade students from the Grangeville and Cottonwood areas on May 21 and 26.

Seven field stations were set up at Fish Creek Recreation area where Forest Service and Idaho Department of Fish

and Game employees gave presentations about natural resource work. The students learned about silviculture and measured tree height and diameter. They willingly suited up as smokejumpers. They were very interested to learn that a snag or a tree on the stream bank protects and provides homes for fish. Their hands got dirty as they examined soils for content.

Attracted by the powerful hoses and fire engines, the students also learned about the different types of equipment and tools used in firefighting. They were excited to see familiar antlers of elk and deer. Feeling the different kinds of hides or pelts of common wildlife tested their knowledge of wild animals. It gave them a chance to learn what biologists do. They quickly noted the problems of litter-

ing in a camp while learning about no-trace camping, sanitation, stock use, and use of fire in the wilderness.

According to Barb Beck, the students participated enthusiastically in the program. "They had a hands on experience with many of the jobs we do and lots of interaction with the great employees we have doing those jobs," Beck said. "Thanks to the efforts of our resource specialists, especially forestry technician Bob Lippencott, who organized and coordinated the field day, it was a tremendous success," Beck added.

Were the students rowdy? Not at all! They were just full of energy, enough to help pick up litter in the campground. On a cool sunny day, they learned a lot the fun way!

Flathead Forestry EXPO Has Impact on School Children

by J. D. Coleman, Public Affairs Officer
Flathead National Forest

More than 1,100 fifth-grade school children toured the Flathead Family Forestry EXPO during the week prior to the major public events on Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16. This is the fourth annual staging of this event, which is co-sponsored by the Flathead National Forest and partially supported this year by a National Conservation Education grant.

The weekend events were blessed by great weather and crowds of nearly 1,000 people. Feedback from visitors was extremely positive. Even people who grew up in timber country admitted they learned something from their exposure to EXPO events, such as a forest walk with educa-

tional stations and demonstrations of the new cut-to-length logging systems.

Most of the fun came when fifth graders arrived from northwest Montana schools as far away as Plains, Noxon and Eureka. The wide-eyed youngsters toured the Trumble Creek Educational Forest, the site of EXPO, and learned about fish, wildlife, low impact backcountry camping and best management logging practices at educational stations. Everyone who came on the weekend was treated to a free backcountry luncheon.



John Fraley, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, asks identity of wildlife pelt. Boy at far left was believed to be a "ringer"--he knew the answer to every question John threw out.

Gary Dahlgren, supervisory forester in the Supervisor's Office, was the EXPO chairman this year. He praised the efforts of the volunteers throughout the Flathead Valley that made the 1993 EXPO a success. Nearly 100 groups and organizations either sponsored or supported the event this year along with several hundred individual volunteers.

Birch Creek Outdoor Center Re-energized by New Instructor

For several years every spring a few school teachers have brought their students to the Birch Creek Outdoor Education Center, in the Beaverhead National Forest's East Pioneer Mountains north of Dillon, Montana, to study nature. The teachers came from a hardy breed: they already had outdoor education experience and they knew they were on their own!

This year—thanks to the Natural Resource Conservation Education Program (NRCEP)—new teachers, new kids, and new experiences came to Birch Creek. A FY 92 NRCEP grant funds half of the salary of Jill Nishball, a veteran environmental educator from Arcata, California. The other half of Jill's pay and her actual employment comes from the Beaverhead National Forest's partner at Birch Creek, the Western Montana College of the University of Montana (UMC).

Jill came to work in April and immediately "hit" the school circuit, contacting rural teachers in nearby Beaverhead and Madison counties, and in Butte, 60 miles to the north. Thanks to Jill's effort, two first grade teachers decided to bring their

students to Birch Creek for its outdoor classroom. Without her help, they probably would have stayed home.

Jill offered everything from brief presentations on natural history subjects to all-day "immersing" experiences, modeled after the acclimatization program of Steve Van Matre, well known environmental educator. All told, Jill had something to do with nearly 500 elementary students and their parent chaperones.

She also has laid out a special nature study trail that will offer teachers an instructional path that carries them and their students away from the nature center's buildings. This summer Jill will lay out a second trail, accessible for physically challenged students of all ages. She'll also offer a course in WMC's summer study catalog, on outdoor education techniques.

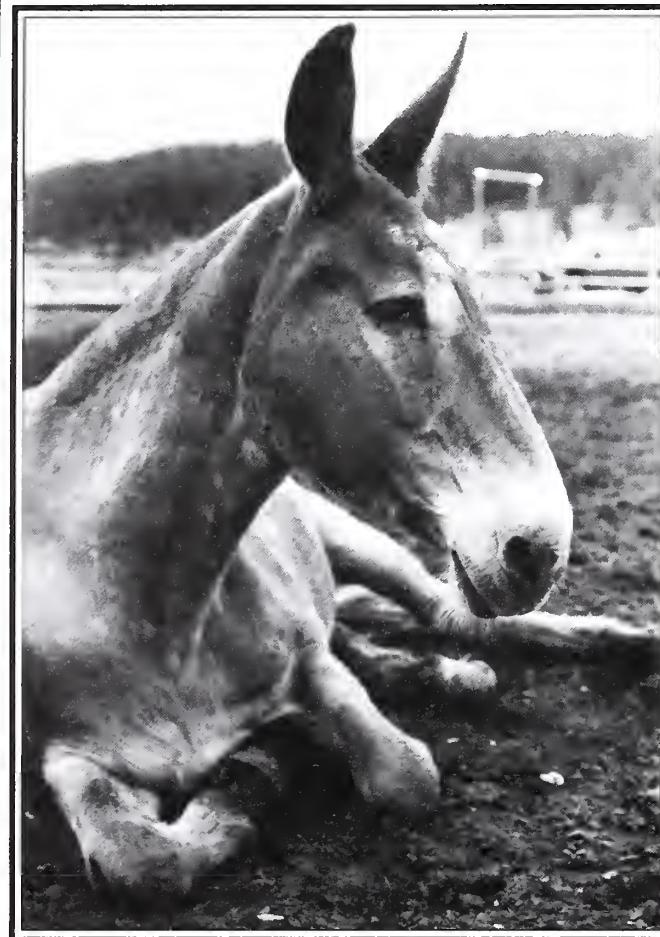
Jill will also begin developing her idea for a "KEEPsakes" environmental education curriculum for Birch Creek. "KEEP" stands for "Kids Environmental Education Program," and the program rewards participants with letters (S-A-K-E-S) as they progress through it.

by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Officer
Beaverhead National Forest

The program will be well publicized. Jill plans to describe the program at both the annual international congress of the North American Association for Environmental Education (held in September, for the first time in Montana, at Big Sky), and at the annual meeting of the Montana Education Association. This gathering draws most of the state's teachers.

What does the future hold for Birch Creek? We hope to secure funding from NRCEP and other sources to continue to support an outdoor education professional at Birch Creek. Next year's task will involve testing the KEEPsakes curriculum, working out the bugs and adding new pieces. We also hope to develop educational "boxes" for fish, mammals, and birds, for use at Birch Creek and by Forest Service specialists who visit schools.

The goal remains getting kids out into the woods. Having a facilitator helping teachers make full use of the great, outdoor classroom, means children in southwest Montana will have a richer, more meaningful encounter with the outdoors that for too many represent unknown territory.



Each year in late spring or early summer, hundreds of Forest Service horses and mules hit the trails carrying their first packload of the season into the wilderness and recreational areas across the Region. The Decker saddles creak under the weight of water bars, bridge decking, camping gear, sand, gravel, cross-cut saws and anything else that might be needed to open or repair winter damaged trails.

The lead mule, first in line behind the packer, may carry panniers full of smaller, miscellaneous equipment and lunches and canteens. Her load won't weigh as much as the bridge decking or water bars the other mules carry, but she'll work just as hard by keeping the young, inexperienced, or not so reliable mules from pushing forward and causing a "wreck." If it is the packer who is inexperienced, she may balk at the choice of paths, wisely keeping the packer from causing a wreck.

It takes a mule with a certain kind of temperament to be a lead mule in a packstring. Size and strength aren't so important; a crabby, bossy personality is. Cindy, a little sorrel mule from the Badlands of North Dakota had just that kind of a disposition. Arriving at the Ninemile Remount Depot in 1962 as a wild two-year old, Cindy first learned to carry a pack and then to head a string

Goodbye to Cindy

of mules. She soon discovered that her job was to keep the other mules on the trail and behind her.

For 26 seasons, Cindy ascended and descended the network of trails in the Great Burn area of the Fish Creek Drainage and in other backcountry areas. When young mules replaced retired animals, she taught them the rules of the trail. If planting herself sideways in the trail didn't discourage her followers from trying to pass, pinned ears, a wrinkled muzzle and "the look" certainly would. As a last resort, a fast, hard kick in the chest stopped all but the most obnoxious youngsters.

Long before the second Ninemile packstring was formed as a parade/Regional workstring, Cindy also followed her packer down paved streets for parades in Alberton, Superior and Missoula. She later trained the "green" mules who eventually became the "parade string"

and in time, passed on her skills as lead mule to Molly and Salty who now head the two packstrings at Ninemile.

Cindy was retired from heavy Forest Service work at age 28 but she continued to volunteer for Ninemile. She and companion mule Kingfish became an important part of the self-guided tour at the Historic Remount Depot. Resting by day in the corral next to the saddle shop, Cindy greeted and delighted visitors throughout the tourist season. She submitted patiently to the constant petting and gifts of handfuls of grass and calmly tolerated the video cameras.

Cindy died at the Remount Depot this spring; she was 33 years old. Ninemile employees held a brief memorial ceremony for the little mule, honoring her by officially retiring her pack saddle. The old handmade saddle, specially fitted to Cindy's back, has a worn brass plate bearing her name. Carefully cleaned and oiled one last time, the saddle now sits on the back of the life-size wooden mule in the Ninemile Visitor Center. The hardworking little mule who spent her life with the Forest Service will be missed by those who knew her.

by Kathy Solheim, Receptionist
Aviation and Fire Management

Region Celebrates Asian-Pacific Islander Month

by Sunny Hemphill, Special Emphasis Program Manager
Regional Office

May is designated by Congress as the month to recognize the contributions of Americans of Asian or Pacific Island descent. At the Regional Office (RO) in Missoula, 50 employees and guests attended a program May 28 organized by Josiah Kim, RO Engineering, which featured employees of Hmong, Filipino, Japanese, and Hawaiian descent.

Mailor Moua, RO Lands and Minerals (LM), discussed her rich cultural background with the Hmong people who have migrated from China to Laos to the United States in their search for freedom and prosperity. She displayed an intricate quilt hand embroidered to depict the history and migration of the Hmong. Mailor has broken with her family traditions in being a woman who is both educated and a professional.

Mailor discussed many customs and practices of her people who are primarily rural farmers. In describing their annual gatherings which lasted one to two weeks, she revealed the traditional methods of choosing brides. People of different tribes came together to celebrate, meet, and court. Males would either elope with their chosen love, abduct her with the help of friends, or buy her from her family if they were rich enough.

Two of Mailor's family, Yeng Moua and Shoua Moua, accompanied by their chaperone, Yer Thao, demonstrated traditional dances in colorful, native costumes.

Raymondo Tesoro, LM, discussed his upbringing as a "Norwegian of Island descent." Raised in North Dakota and being a second generation American, Ray's only exposure to his Filipino origins came from the relatives his father sponsored as immigrants to the United States. His good humored presentation emphasized his cross cultural background which helped him to fit into his immediate surroundings as a youth. Ray thinks it important to know and understand his heritage, but he also thinks assimilation with American culture is important.

As a third generation American, Gayle Yamasaki, LM, joked about assumptions people make because he's Japanese-American, like knowing all Japanese persons in Missoula when he has only one "acquaintance" of Japanese descent.

Gayle has little knowledge of his Japanese heritage. His focus is on being an American and pursuing the American dream which his family encourages. However, even family members have some unrealistic expectations. Since his father was a first son and he is a first son, Gayle is expected to carry on the family bloodline by producing a first son; yet Gayle has no children.

Pauline Lovitt, secretary for the Bitterroot Forest Supervisor, shared her experiences of growing up in Hawaii. Most Hawaiians today are a mixture of Caucasian Hawaiian like herself or Asian Hawaiian; only 3,000 pure Hawaiians remain today. She traced the history of the islands, discussing the natives' pride in the accomplishments of King Kamehameha's dynasty (1790-1895) which united the islands and ended the rivalry among chiefs until the de-thronement of Queen Liliokalani by the Provisional Missionary Party.

Custer Rendezvous

by Chuck Teague, Membership Chairman
Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association

The 12th annual get together of retired and current Custer National Forest folks is scheduled for Friday and Saturday August 6 and 7 at Kaleva Lodge camp near Red Lodge. There will be a potluck dinner and dance to live music on Friday and a breakfast on Saturday.

An added attraction this year is the Festival of Nations celebration representing the rich ethnic heritage of the Red Lodge community.

The camp is available for early camper arrivals from noon on Thursday August 5 through noon Sunday August 8.

All Forest Service friends are invited. For more details, contact Ode Cusker, Rt. 2, Box 3460, Red Lodge, MT 59068, telephone (406) 446-2378. Reservations are \$6 per person and can be mailed to the above address.

In Memoriam

John H. "Bud" Coats, 73, died June 19 of complications from kidney failure. He had undergone hemodialysis treatment for the past 18 years.

Born in Montana, Coats first worked for the Forest Service in 1950 in Idaho. In 1956, he was employed as communications officer at Region 1 headquarters in Missoula until his retirement in 1976.

Among Coats' survivors are wife, a son, and two daughters.

Ralph S. Space, 92, former Clearwater National Forest supervisor, died June 16 of pneumonia in Orofino. Space was raised on his family's ranch in Idaho between Weippe and Pierce. His first appointment with the Forest Service was in 1925 as a ranger with the Blackfoot National Forest in Idaho. He transferred to the R-1 Regional Office in 1936. In 1954, he was selected as supervisor of the Clearwater National Forest, a position he held until retiring in 1963.

Space published three books, including "The Clearwater Story," which told the history of the Clearwater National Forest. His interest in the Lewis and Clark expedition led him to retrace their steps in the Clearwater, summarizing his research in this book "The Lolo Trail." For his contributions to local history, he received a Meritorious Achievement Award from the Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation.

Space is survived by a son and a daughter.



Ralph Space

Personnel Update

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ADAMS, GUY, lands/right-of-way specialist, SO, special achievement award
PETRONI, MARK, district ranger, Madison RD, temporary promotion

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BURSBY, DONNA, office automation clerk, Trapper Creek JCC, promotion, student services clerk
FAHRNI, BRUCE, forester, Stevensville RD, promotion
MCCORMACK, ANNEMARIE, community health nurse, Trapper Creek JCC, promotion

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

FULLER, KIM, resource assistant, SO, temporary promotion
MURPHY, PAT, fisheries Biologist, Pierce RD, temporary promotion, SO
PHILBIN, MICHAEL, student trainee hydrologist, Palouse RD, conversion

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

LILLY, LINDA, forester, Palouse RD, reassignment, Palouse RD

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ANDERSON, ROBERT, cash award, range technician, Grand River RD
BAKER, GERARD, cash award, social scientist, Beartooth RD
BENSON, KATHLEEN, cash award, contract specialist, SO
BURGER, GUDADALUPE, cash award and promotion, range conservationist, Medora RD
COLE, VICKY, cash award, forestry technician, SO
ELMORE, BRENT, cash award, forestry technician, Sioux RD
ENDERUD, CHERYL, cash award, forestry technician, McKenzie RD
FAGER, CARL, cash award, forester, SO
FLOODMAN, MERVIN, cash award, archeologist, McKenzie RD
FOLI, GARY, cash award, wildlife biologist, McKenzie RD
GEHMAN, KENNETH E., cash award, visual information specialist, SO
GIESE MARVIN R., temporary promotion, realty specialist, McKenzie RD
GILG, TIMOTHY A., cash award, forestry technician, Ashland RD
GONZALES, SHERYL L., cash award, computer specialist, SO
GRAY, JAMES P., cash award, forester, SO
GREYEAGLE, BENEDICT, cash award, range technician, Grand River RD
HAASE, MARY, cash award, support services specialist, Grand River RD
HARRIS, KARLA K., cash award, forestry technician, Ashland RD
HATFIELD, JR., DAVID, cash award, geologist, Beartooth RD
HECKER, RON, temporary promotion, range conservationist, Ashland RD
HEGGEN, SUE E., cash award, personnel officer, SO
HEISNER, FRANK E., cash award, forester, Medora RD
HOFMANN, JEAN, cash award, information receptionist typing, Ashland RD
JENKS, TERRY S., cash award, forestry technician, Ashland RD
KURTZ, WILLIAM M., cash award, archeologist, Medora RD
LAPOINT, HALCYON J., cash award, archeologist, SO
LUNSFORD, MARY B., cash award, executive secretary, SO
MARTIN, BRANDI L., cash award, range technician, Ashland RD
MARTIN, ELVIRA A., cash award, information assistant, Medora RD
MCCARTHY, CLINTON W., cash award, wildlife biologist, SO
MILBURN, SHERRY L., cash award, public affairs specialist, SO
MORIN, FOREST G., cash award, forester adm, Grand River RD
MOTSKO, PHYLLIS, cash award, business management clerk, McKenzie RD
PFAU, JAMES P., cash award, civil engineer, SO, EZE
PIERSON, PATRICK M., cash award, forester, Beartooth RD
QUALE, BRENDA R., cash award, range conservationist, Medora RD
RAINE, FONDA L., cash award, resource clerk, Ashland RD
REDFERN, SAMUEL, cash award and promotion, district ranger, Medora RD
REID, KIM, cash award, range conservationist, Beartooth RD
ROBBINS, BARBARA K., cash award, budget & finance officer, SO
SEXTON, MARK E., cash award, forestry technician, Medora RD
SJURSEN, PHILLIP J., cash award, range conservationist, Medora RD
STEPHANY, JEFFREY, M., cash award, forestry aid, Ashland RD
STUDNER, SCOTT, cash award, range conservationist, Ashland RD
THORNTON, MARTINA L., cash award, realty specialist, Medora RD

TOMAC, JEFFREY., cash award, range conservationist, Grand River RD
VOGT, CASILDA A., promotion, personnel assistant, SO
WALSH, RUSSELL K., cash award, surveying technician, Medora RD
WIEGAND, ROBERT, cash award, forester, Medora RD

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

FARRELL, JAMES, wildlife biologist, Mark Twain NF, reassignment, Sioux RD
GRAY, JAMES P., forester, Deschutes NF, reassignment, SO
SWALLING, ROY, forestry technician, Klamath NF, reassignment, Medora RD
WATKINS, MICHAEL, forester, Selway RD, reassignment, Beartooth RD, forestry technician

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BASEG, PAULETTE, resource clerk, cash award, Bozeman RD
ERICKSON, KEVIN, forestry technician (smoke jumper), temporary promotion NTE 1 year, Hebgen Lake RD
MCCLURE, JANET, information receptionist, cash award, Bozeman RD
SEARS, LARRY, forester, cash award, Gardiner RD

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

DRINVILLE, MAUREEN, information assistant, SO, cash award
NEAL, CHUCK, forester, Helena RD, promotion, Park Manager, BLM
SESTRICH, JOLENE, civil engineer SO to Kootenai NF, CC

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

DODSON, PAULINE, landscape architect coop, SO to Prescott NF
WISDOM, JOYCE, personnel clerk, Mark Twain NF to SO

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

CHRISMAN, ALLEN, Bonners Ferry RD, supervisory forester, temporary promotion, forester deputy district ranger, Avery RD

DAVIES, ROBERT, promotion, student trainee fishery biology, Bonners Ferry RD

HAMMET, ANNA, quality step increase, forestry technician, Sandpoint RD
HULSIZER, VICKIE, resource clerk, temporary promotion, resource clerk, Wallace RD

KLARICH, ROBERT, temporary promotion, supervisory forester, Bonners Ferry RD

KLOOTWYNK, NANCY, student trainee (civil engineering), promotion, student trainee (civil engineering), Sandpoint RD

LIENEMANN, NOELLE, student trainee (lands architect) promotion, student trainee (lands architect), SO

NIPP, IRENE, temporary promotion, supervisory financial assistant, Wallace RD

STEPHENSON, WENDY, promotion, purchasing agent, SO

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

HULSIZER, VICKIE, office automation clerk, reassignment, resource clerk, Wallace RD

STEVENSON, MICHAEL, lead forestry technician, reassignment, lead forestry technician, Bonners Ferry RD

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

CURTIS, GEORGE, supervisory forester, Rexford RD, special act
HOLFIELD, JENNIFER, wildlife biologist, Fisher River RD, special act

LAFORD, RETA, forester, Rexford RD, special act

MCNARY, DEBB, forestry technician, Cabinet RD, spot award

PEARSON, MARSHALL, supervisory forester, Rexford RD, special act

SCHLENKER, ANNE, forester, Libby RD, promotion

SEIDEL, ROBERT, supervisory forester, Rexford RD, special act

SHARP, DOROTHY, administrative officer, Rexford RD, special act

THOMPSON, ROBERT, administrative forester, Rexford RD, special act

YOUNG, DANIEL, wildlife biologist, Rexford RD, special act

YOUNG, JOEL, law enforcement officer, Rexford RD, special act

NEW EMPLOYEES

CAPERS, FREDERICK, forester trainee, Fisher River RD, accepted appointment

GREEN, JONATHAN, computer science trainee, SO, accepted appointment

Personnel Update

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

DERLETH, ROBERT, forestry technician, Superior RD, cash award
 ENYEART, KAY, information receptionist, Seeley Lake RD,
 10-year service award
 FLYNN, CAROLYN, personnel assistant, SO, 20-year service award
 JOHNSON, CAROLE, forestry tech, Superior RD, promotion
 KARKANEN, STEVE, supervisory forestry tech, Missoula RD,
 cash award, AFD
 MACY, JOHN, hydrologic tech, SO, spot award from
 Black Hills Hydrology Program
 SMITH, WANDA, forestry technician, Missoula RD, cash award

REGIONAL OFFICE

AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS

BELL, CAROL, entomologist, TCFPM, promotion & conversion
 to career conditional
 BURTON, JACK, supervisory employee relations specialist,
 PM, promotion
 LENTZ, GRETCHEN, computer scientist, MS, promotion
 MANNING, CYNTHIA, social scientist, LFP, promotion
 ONKEN, TODD, supervisory forestry technician-smokejumper,
 A&FM-AFD, promotion
 VANDEGRIFT, NITA, office automation assistant, A&FM-AFD,
 cash award

Private Forestry (S&PF) in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania as a forester. Other jobs with the same division include forest products technologist, and branch chief.

In 1970, Meyer transferred to the Washington Office as forester in rural development with S&PF. In 1971 he was promoted to leader of the National Forest Products Utilization Program in the Washington Office, a position he held until his reassignment in 1975 to Region 1 as a national harvesting specialist with S&PF.

Meyer and his wife Loueen will not lack for things to do. For four years they have operated a truck farm, selling their

produce, "Vern's Veggies," at the local farmers' market in Missoula. He also has honeybees. Retirement may also give Vern and his wife more time for golf, which they both enjoy, and their three children, all grown and living in Seattle.

Hal Wetzsteon retired May 31, after 34 years with the Forest Service. He left his post as the fire management officer for the Beaverhead National Forest, in charge of the Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center.

Wetzsteon began his Forest Service career as a seasonal firefighter for the Bitterroot National Forest in 1959. He continued to work seasonally for the Bitterroot until 1963, when he got a job as supervisor of the Accelerated Public Works Camp. In 1964, Hal took a temporary position as a Forest Service fire control officer in Wise River. The following year he got a full-time Forest Service job in Wisdom. At that time, the Wisdom Ranger Station consisted of a one-room cabin (no running water, just an old oil stove that worked when it wanted to), and four employees. The cabin was later moved and now serves as the office for the livestock dipping vat on the Gibbonsville Road, west of Wisdom. Wetzsteon remembers fondly when, in 1985, the current ranger station finally opened—running water and heat were real improvements!

In 1987, Hal transferred to the Forest Service's fire dispatch office, then located in Butte. The office was moved the same year to Dillon.

Hal and his wife of 32 years, Phyllis, have four grown children. Phyllis and Hal enjoy gardening, fishing, and hunting and being grandparents.

Retirement News

Deane Hess, safety and occupational health specialist with the Olympic National Forest in Region 6 retired June 3. In his current job he has been the coordinator of the Forest's safety program along with serving as the Forest property officer.

Hess began his Forest Service career over 40 years ago, in 1952, at the Unite Ranger District, Whitman National Forest. From 1956-69, he worked in the Nez Perce National Forest in several positions: in fire control, Moose Creek Ranger District; fire control officer, Elk City Ranger District; administrative officer, Cedar Flats Job Corps Center from 1965 to 1969 when it closed.

Hess transferred to the R-1 Regional Office in 1969 as a contract specialist. In 1973 he became administrative officer for the Missoula Equipment Development Center. While in Missoula he was responsible for starting the training program for the Field First Aid Station, developed by the center for use at wildland fires.

In 1979 Hess transferred to Olympia where he has continued to be active in training of Forest Service personnel for working in the field aid stations and has served as manager and medical unit leader of these units on many fires.

Deane and his wife Donna plan to move to Weiser, Idaho after retirement.

Vernon Meyer, multi-regional harvest specialist with the R-1 Regional Office, is retiring July 9 after 30 years of Federal Service. Vern has had a varied career in forest products utilization. His first job in forestry was in 1958 with the North Dakota Forest Service. After a four-year stint as general manager of the Wood Preserving and Products Company in Duluth, Minnesota. In 1965 he began work with the Forest Service as a forester in utilization and marketing in Region 9 in Duluth. In 1966 he transferred to the Northeastern Area, State and



Vern and Loueen Meyer at the Missoula farmers' market

Other Retirements

Bakki, Roger, maintenance worker, Madison RD, Beaverhead NF
Bassett, Dean K., supervisory civil engineering technician, SO, Custer NF

Harcharik, Dale, appraiser, retirement, SO, Gallatin NF

McCord, Charles Jr., retirement, supervisory forestry technician, St. Maries RD, Idaho Panhandle NF

Pfau James P., highway engineer, EZE, Medora RD, Custer NF

Wardwell, Naomi, training instructor, Trapper Creek JCC, Bitterroot NF

Celebrating Earth Day

by Lin Chamberlin, Executive Assistant
Clearwater National Forest

Clearwater employees look close to home to do something for the land

Weed patch city. Definitely an eye sore. That's how the property in front of the Clearwater National Forest Supervisor's Office appeared before employees rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Within the span of eight hours, the area was transformed into a pleasing landscape.

A local tree farmer donated junipers; all we had to do was dig them up and transplant them. A volunteer came in with a backhoe to prepare the soil for planting. Ten volunteers served as the digging crew. Ankle deep in mud from all the recent rain, they dug up the 120 junipers and were back at the office in three hours. They were greeted by another 20 people eagerly waiting to plant the junipers. Three two-ton truckloads of wood chips were hauled in by yet another volunteer.

In addition to the planting, several people worked together to provide a barbecue potluck picnic for the workers and everyone else in the Supervisor's Office.

At 3:00 in the afternoon, the project was winding down

and so were the workers. By 3:30 the project was completed—

junipers were planted, fertilized, and watered and all the wood

chips had been spread over the area. For the Clearwater Forest

Supervisor's Office, it was a great way to celebrate Earth Day.



Clearwater National Forest employees transforming the landscape

The Northern Region News

USDA Forest Service

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